and join India in sincere efforts to resolve all issues peacefully and bilaterally in terms of the Simla Agreement.

Efforts by organisation of Islamic Conference to raise Kashmir issue in U.N.

650. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that 51 member States of the Organisation of Islamic Conference decided recently to make coordinated efforts in the recent Session of the United Nations General Assembly for adopting a resolution asking the UN investigations into the alleged human rights violations in Kashmir;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to deal with this effectively at the UN when it came up before it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) communique of 29th November 1993 included a reference calling on OIC member States to make a coordinated approach for the adoption of a resolution in the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the alleged violation of human rights by India in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) and (c) Government had taken up the matter with members of the OIC. We pointed out that the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir had been adversely affected by the activities of terrorists receiving material and moral support from abroad. Government of India is fully cognisant of the need to protect human rights and this had been evidenced in successful resolution of the situation at Hazratbal.

Most OIC member States assured India that they would prefer India and Pakistan settling the Jammu and Kashmir issue bilaterally, in accordance with the Simla Agreement. The Pakistani sponsored resolution on the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir was not ultimately tabled in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly for want of adequate support.

Indo-China pact on line of actual control

651. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-China Pact has been signed on the Line of Actual Control during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Beijing;

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the Indo-China Pact on the Line of Actual Control; and

(c) the total source kilometers of the border involved on Indo-China border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) During the Prime Minitster's visit to China, the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Trainquility Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas was signed in Beijing on September 7, 1993.

(b) A copy of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas has been placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) Under Article One of the agreement, where necessary the two sides shall check and determine the segments of the line of actual control where they have different views as to its alignment.

Halt of nuclear arms production programme by Pakistan

652. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the announcement by Pakistan on or around September 26, 1993 that Pakistan had halted their nuclear production programme.

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) how far the statement stands to verification if any made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government have seen Press reports quoting the then Pak Caretaker Prime Minister Mr. Moeen Qurashi as stating that Pakistan had stopped and tapped its nuclear programme.

Subsequently, however, Pakistan Government had clarified that Pakistan's policy on the nuclear issue remains unchanged and that Pakistan will not give up its nuclear capability unilaterally.

(b) and (c) Our concern over the pursuit of a clandestine and weapons-oriented nuclear programme of Pakistan and its implications for India's and regional security and stability have been conveyed to all concerned.

Government constantly monitor all development having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

PM's Iran Visit

653. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Iran he was successful in bringing Irainian Leadership round to India's stand on Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether any other moves were made during the visit to put India on the centrestage in Central Asia; if so, what are the details thereof indicating the success achieved in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) PM briefed the Iranian leadership on india's position on Kashmir, and apprised it of Pak support to terrorism and subverion in J & K. The Iranian leadership expressed categorical support to India's territorial integrity and affirmed that Kashmir was an internal affair of India's territorial integrity and affirmed situation in J & K would be resolved speedly.

An MOU of Imperation in Surface Transport and Tranisit facilities was concluded during PM's visit. The MOU envisages copperation between India and Iran in the development of the transport and transit infrastructure so as to promote their trade and economic relations with the Central Asian States.

Engaging US Private Firms for Lobbying India's interests in United States

654. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI P UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been mooted to engage US Public Relations consultants for lobbying India's interests in the United States:

(b) if so, what is the amount being proposed to be spent as remuneration to the selected Public Relations Firms; and

(c) whether such professsonal competence as required to deal with trade technical and commercial issues with the US, is not available within India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Government have decided in principle to engage a lobbying frim in the US. Some such firms are under consideration. On completion of the process of revaluation, the amount of remuneration to the selected firm would be determined. The